

who would like to change their vote when in the Chair's discretion every Member has voted who wants to vote. The Chair will then tally the votes and announce the vote.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to propound a parliamentary inquiry. I'd like to inquire of the Chair, by what means will the Chair know what the totals are on the vote that we're engaged in at this moment?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will use the standard method of verification.

Mr. DREIER. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. What is the traditional method of verification? For me, it is to look at the board up there and see how my State delegation had voted.

Mr. Speaker, I was just asking the Chair to enlighten us as to exactly how it is through this traditional procedure of determining what the vote is that you're going to report to us. I usually look up here on the wall and see how my State delegation is voting, how some of my colleagues are voting. We don't have the ability to do that. I'm just wondering exactly how it is that the Chair will be able to make this announcement to us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members can verify their votes at any one of the various voting stations. Engineers are working on the problem.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker. Is it not true, Mr. Speaker, that there are computer terminals on the majority side, the minority side and at the Speaker's desk; and, further, Mr. Speaker, is it not true that the Clerk of the House has the responsibility, when there are engineering problems, to fix the engineering problems?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct and the engineers are working on the problem.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend for a moment before being recognized.

The House is voting on a motion to adjourn. Members may verify their votes at any of the various voting stations.

Ms. FOXX. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, can the Chair tell us how much time has elapsed since you began this voting process?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Approximately 20 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, can you please at this time tell us the vote total?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide the total until every Member has an opportunity to change their vote, or to vote.

The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it's obvious we have a technical problem. I know that comes as a great shock and surprise to you. I've talked to the gentleman who's in charge of fixing mechanical problems. He tells me that we need to take the system down for a period of time in order to fix it. He has said he needs approximately 30 minutes to do that with no votes. We are in the process of a vote.

What the Speaker pro tempore has said, I don't know what the vote is. I don't know whether it's coming up on the computers. I do know in my office there was no time coming up on the computer. So Members do not know how much time they have left.

PERMISSION TO VACATE VOTE ON MOTION TO
ADJOURN

Mr. HOYER (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we vacate this vote, and as soon as the machine is fixed, that we return to cast this vote and then proceed with the proceedings.

Mr. DREIER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object simply to inquire of the distinguished majority leader, does he intend to recess the House for this 30-minute time? I wonder if he might enlighten us as to what the plan would be. I'm happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. For all of us who think that dastardly things are going on, I guess we're all trying to figure out who's doing the dastardly things. In any event, in answer to your question, it would be my intention to rise while the machines are being fixed because we cannot proceed, nor should we proceed, without having Members know how much time they have left to vote.

I want you to be very nice to that gentleman. He represents my daughter and my son-in-law. So be careful and very gentle with him.

Mr. DREIER. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inquire further of the majority leader. We're in a very awkward situation here. We don't know what the vote total is at this juncture. The House may have just voted to adjourn so far as we know. So the gentleman has just come to the conclusion that he's going to propose that we recess, or he said rise. We're already in the House. We're not in the Committee of the Whole. I'd be happy to yield to my friend if he would like to respond.

Mr. HOYER. I'm sorry, I was getting some technical information about where we are. The computer print-out—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend.

Mr. DREIER. Now I have the word.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. DREIER. Continuing to reserve the right to object, Mr. Speaker, and I do so to say that under normal circumstances this would be somewhat entertaining and funny, but this is a very, very serious matter, and the request that has just been made by the gentleman is one which we want to take seriously. We don't know what the outcome of the vote that is being considered at this moment is. Many of us don't know how our colleagues are recorded, and I will tell you this is a very, very difficult time for this institution. And I'm happy to yield to my friend if he would like to respond to the challenging circumstance that we find ourselves in.

Mr. HOYER. I understand the gentleman's proposition.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to further yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I have been handed a printout. Now, I don't know where the printout comes from, so I am not going to read it, other than I can tell you that I don't know whether you have it on your computer.

May I ask the gentleman whether the computer over there has the totals?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerks are still tallying votes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry, you said the Clerk is still in the process of tallying the votes?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Some of the ballot cards cast in the well are still being counted. The cards that have been submitted are still being counted.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, how long has this vote been open?

I am happy to yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. I asked the gentleman a question because I think it is pertinent to whether or not the computers to which the Speaker has referred are working throughout the floor.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to yield to the majority leader, I would like to inquire, is the vote still open? If Members want to change their votes now, they can continue to do that? If a Member were to walk into the Chamber now, they could still vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The vote is still open.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to further yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. My question to him is, because I don't know because I am not over there, whether or not your computer, where you are standing, is reflecting for you a vote total.

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time under parliamentary procedure.

The answer to that is we don't know.